



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
AND
PARK UNIVERSITY



INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formally recognizes that the **Maricopa Community Colleges (Maricopa)** and the **Park University** are active educational partners, committed to providing greater educational opportunities and services for students transferring between institutions. This commitment strongly supports the concept of seamless transfer that embraces the principle that transfer students should not be required to repeat competencies already achieved.

The Maricopa Community Colleges and Park University enter into this MOU in the spirit of cooperation and mutually recognize each other as quality institutions of higher learning. Each institution, furthermore, is dedicated to serving students from all walks of life, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, color, age, marital status, national origin or other non-merit factors.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the agreement is to enable Maricopa students who transfer to Park University to carry with them the credit they have already earned for as much relevant study as possible. The MOU provides a structure through which transfer articulation on all levels can be supported. Park University understands and agrees that transfer articulation is with the Maricopa Community Colleges as a whole and not with individual colleges within the district. Therefore, it is understood and agreed that courses taken at any Maricopa college or center are considered equally transferable. This is particularly important at Maricopa where students may be enrolled at more than one Maricopa Community College.

TRANSFER ELEMENTS

Treatment of Associate degrees as admission criteria

Students seeking admission to Park University must have an Associate degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 as demonstrated by an official transcript from the Maricopa Community College at which it was earned. Not all Associate degrees are accepted and applied equally. Students that earn an articulated Associate degree will be recognized as having satisfied the lower division coursework associated with Park University baccalaureate degree programs and will be recorded as upper division students. Articulated Associate degrees will be identified, maintained, and available as a separate document from this agreement.

In order to complete the baccalaureate program in a timely manner, students are advised to follow the transfer guide for the academic program they plan to pursue at Park University. If the student intends to change degree focus upon admission to Park University, the student may be required to complete some lower division preparation work prior to beginning the program at Park University.

Treatment of Maricopa coursework as admission criteria

Maricopa students transferring without an Associate Degree or an Associate degree that does not articulate to a Park University program, will have all courses, numbered 100 and above and with a grade of "C or better", accepted for transfer as either an elective, general education requirement, or an exemption or replacement for a required equivalent course.

Residency Requirement

Completion of the residency requirement: 30 hours of earned and graded college hours at Park. At least 15 of these 30 hours must be in the major core.

Transfer Appeals Procedures

Under this agreement, students wishing to challenge a course evaluation would need to provide documentation and a rationale to the registrar's office.

Total Number of Transferable Credits

The maximum number of lower-division credits that may be accepted and applied toward degree completion at Park University is 75 credit hours. This transfer credit limit will be the difference between the total credits required for degree completion 120 and the university's upper-division requirement 45.

Award of Upper-Division Credit

Students who transfer lower-division credits beyond that required for an Associate Degree or whose lower-division credits/competencies are equivalent to designated upper-division credits/competencies, can request/petition these courses/competencies be evaluated by Park University and, where appropriate, equivalent upper-division credit will be awarded.

Evaluation

There will be an annual evaluation process of the partnership supported by this MOU. However, both parties have the option to conduct a review in response to curricular changes and other institutional changes and conditions. The party initiating such change will communicate it in a timely manner to the other party. The information obtained from this evaluation will be used to improve the transfer process for the benefit of students.

Longevity Of The Agreement

This MOU is in perpetuity or until it is discontinued by either educational partner by submitting written notification to the other partner one year prior to the identified cancellation date in order to protect all students transferring between these institutions.

Maricopa students in the process of applying to Park University at the time of cancellation will be allowed to complete the application process and complete degrees, subject to the requirement to complete the degree within seven years of the first Park University course enrollment.

This MOU is effective only under the condition that both transferring institutions maintain current accreditation by an appropriate accrediting association.

OBLIGATIONS OF PARK UNIVERSITY

Park University will provide academic advising to Maricopa students. Additionally, Park University will provide materials, catalogs, and other information to Maricopa advisors to facilitate their understanding of university requirements and academic programs.

Park University will provide advising for students enrolled in the online programs.

JOINT OBLIGATIONS

Transfer articulation materials developed by an articulating institution are not valid without a MOU signed by the Maricopa Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

In collaboration with the Maricopa Community Colleges, the development, distribution, and accuracy of all transfer articulation products (e.g., Transfer Guide) are the responsibility of the Park University.

Maricopa and Park University agree to exchange data and documents as agreed that will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of these transfer arrangements, and promote effective cooperation between the two institutions. The institutions will exchange admissions, grades, and retention data after obtaining appropriate permission from the students involved and in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

Maricopa Community Colleges

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Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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Michael H. Droge, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for
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(date)

(date)

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